

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9 are pending.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Reid et al.* (US 2001/0015321) in view of *Lowenheim* (Text *Electroplating*), *Basol* (6,921,551) and *Mayer et al.* (6,946,065).

Changes in the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended in this application to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. The amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed, for example, at paragraph [0025] and Claim 7. No new matter has been added.

Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a) – claims 1-5, 7 and 9

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over *Reid et al.* (US 2001/0015321) in view of *Lowenheim* (Text *Electroplating*), *Basol* (6,921,551) and *Mayer et al.* (6,946,065). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed combination of *Reid*, *Lowenheim*, *Basol* and *Mayer* does not teach or suggest a leveler concentration in the range of 9ml/l-12ml/l. *Reid* teaches a leveler concentration of 0.5ml-8ml/l (Tables 1 and 2 in *Reid*). *Lowenheim*, *Basol* and *Mayer* are silent as to the leveler concentration.

Applicant therefore submits that the rejection based the *Reid*, *Lowenheim*, *Basol* and *Mayer* reference be withdrawn. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1-5, and 9 recite novel subject matter which distinguishes over any possible combination of *Reid*, *Lowenheim*, *Basol* and *Mayer*.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the amended claims are now in proper form, and that the amended claims all define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

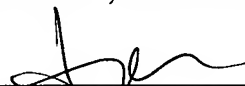
Extension of Time

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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